

## CLAIMS

1. A use of an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5), or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor, for the prophylaxis and/or therapy of portal hypertension.
2. A use of an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5), or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor, for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against one or more of the following diseases or complications: bleeding complications of the portal hypertension, hepato-renal syndrome, hepato-pulmonal syndrome, hepatic encephalopathy, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis and ascites.
3. A use of a PDE 5-inhibitor, or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor, for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against illnesses or disease conditions, which can be controlled by a decrease of the portal vein pressure and/or by an increase of the portal vein flow, or which can be prevented thereby.
4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 against bleedings from oesophagus varices and/or fundus varices.
5. A use of a PDE 5-inhibitor, or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor, for influencing the metabolism of a substance, wherein the influencing involves an increase of the portal vein flow and thus an increase of a blood flow through the liver.
6. The use according to claim 5, wherein the influencing involves an enhanced metabolic decomposition of an exogenously added substance in the liver.
7. The use according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the substance is an exogenously added substance, which is incorporated concurrently with, after, or particularly prior to the use of the PDE 5-inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE

5-inhibitor, and/or wherein the exogenous substance is selected from the group consisting of medicaments, drugs or toxic substances such as ethyl alcohol.

8. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Vardenafil.

9. The use according to claim 8, wherein Vardenafil is selected as the PDE 5-inhibitor.

10. The use according to any one of the preceding claims for the prophylaxis and/or therapy in humans.

11. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor is administered orally.

12. The use according to claim 10, wherein the single dosis of the PDE 5-inhibitor in the oral administration is 0.01 to 10, particularly 0.1 to 1,5 mg PDE 5-inhibitor per kg body weight.

13. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 12 in combination with a substance, which is selected from the group of  $\beta$ -blockers, Vasopressin and analogs thereof as well as Somatostatin and analogs thereof.

14. Combination-medication for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against portal hypertension and/or against disease conditions or risks which are associated with the portal hypertension,  
wherein the combination medication comprises the following combination, in a common or in separate application form(s):

- a PDE 5-inhibitor, and
- another drug against portal hypertension.

15. Combination-medication according to claim 14, wherein the other drug against portal hypertension is selected from conventional drugs against portal hypertension, particularly from a group consisting of  $\beta$ -blockers, Vasopressin and analogs thereof as well as Somatostatin and analogs thereof.

16. Combination-medication according to claim 14, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Vardenafil.